

PRU originally conceived 1964 against background of Viet Cong domination of countryside in wide areas--controlled 13 of 43 provinces through terror, harassment, etc. Various Vietnamese and U.S. efforts were developed to cope with situation, but lack central coordination. They were consolidated and formalized under Phoenix in July 1967 with mission of both collecting intelligence on and neutralizing operations of the Viet Cong. U.S. personnel were assigned as advisors at Corps, province and district level--command was retained by the South Vietnamese.

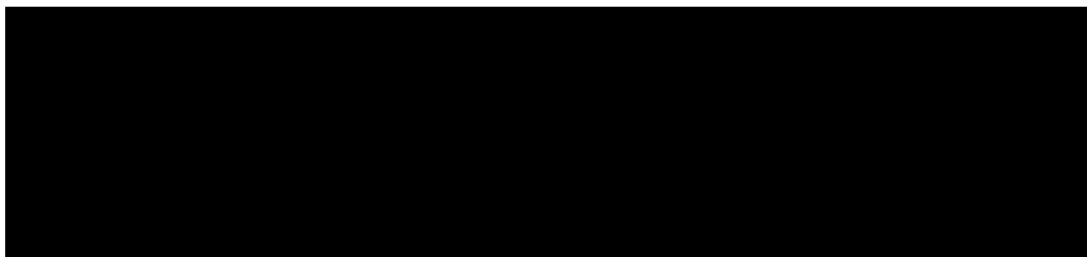
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The U.S. advisory effort was, until 1 July 1969, [REDACTED] Since [REDACTED] taken over the financial burden, Agency personnel in the regions and provinces function only as deputy coordinators.

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Major effort has been directed at ensuring against excesses and unnecessary killing. Despite difficulty of capturing, figures show significant trend:

April - December 1967 -- 1894 captured, 2335 killed

April - December 1968 -- 7487 captured, 5854 killed

April - December 1969 -- 10464 captured, 4901 killed

Casualty figures: 79 VC/VCI for every member of the PRU teams of Phoenix